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Youth involvement can affect elections



LACIE NELSON
STAFF WRITER

From #TrumpTrain to #FeelTheBern, the 2016 presidential election is shaping up to be one of the most controversial and opined upon elections yet. With every election, there are some who wonder, "Does the youth still care?"

Short and simple: yes. This year especially, the youth voters--and even the non-voters who are not old enough yet--are rallying together to stand behind and debate over their favorite candidates.

We've all heard other students talking about the election at some point or another, and even if you "don't get into politics" and you groan at the sound of the conversation, you still knew who and what they were talking about.

With politicians "nae-nae-ing" on stage, it's obvious that there is a desperation for the youth vote. It's clear that the youth are involved in this election, and their overall vote could prove to be a major influence. Politicians

are actually working to appeal to the young. Well, at least Hillary Clinton is.

Why is it important that students care? Having an impact on who the leader of our country will be is pretty important. It's predicted that this year's youth involvement is turning the tide of the election.

Basically, without millennial voters, Bernie Sanders wouldn't even have a voter base. Take that as you will, but that is still a large contribution to our society.

One reason that the younger generations are beginning to get more involved is the new platform of social media.

Forty years ago, Jimmy Carter could never have tweeted about his campaign. [Can you imagine #NotJustPeanuts?] But with the touch of a button, Bernie can tell us all, in 140 characters or less, about his plans for free college and socialized health care.

With new ways to reach out to younger generations, youth are finding it easier to get involved. This new ease of communication puts all the information handy

at the public's fingertips, giving the youth the ability to think more independently and make more informed decisions based on their own opinions--rather than those of their parents or television reporters on biased news networks.

Popularity through social media seems to be a huge contributing factor in this year's election, and it's most likely among the younger generations. [Sorry, but I don't think Grandma's blogging about Trump.]

Though it may not seem like it, the youth can play a huge role in our society and, more importantly, in our political system.

Getting involved and getting a vote out is just one of the civic duties expected of adults. Therefore, teenagers need to get more involved, and need to be aware of the political standings around them now, and get educated on important subjects so they can make informed decisions as adults.

Teenagers do seem to still care about the election and politics in general.

VIKING SAGA

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VIKING VOICES: Opinions on the Election



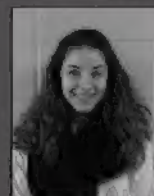
"Bernie Sanders [is my favorite candidate.] If I had to identify myself, I'd be Democratic; and he's for the Democratic side. Plus he has a lot of the same views. I mostly hear about [the election] through the internet. If social media wasn't a thing, I don't think a lot of the younger generations would vote."
-Junior Haley Powers



"I kind of follow the election. I see it through Facebook and the news because it's always on. I like Bernie Sanders because I think he would make life a lot better than what Trump probably would."
-Senior Laramie Reyes



"I know, generally, what's going on in the presidential race. I get what I know from a lot of main news sources. I've seen retweets of Donald Trump, but I don't really follow it. My opinion is people who are going to vote need to get educated on the topics. I think you should vote, but you need to get educated."
-Junior Mitch Fisher



"I care about it [the election]. I see a lot of negative stuff towards Trump and Bernie on Twitter. And, I like some of Bernie's viewpoints, but I can see why people don't like him. All I know is that I don't want Trump for president."
-Sophomore Sharilyn Tuttle

Yearbook spends year capturing moments to publish

MITCHELL EVANS
STAFF WRITER

There are many different classes and activities that students participate in at Northwest. One activity that is key to Northwest is yearbook.

There are a total of 14 yearbook staff members.

Junior Katie Smallwood is a first-time staff member for the yearbook. She joined the class after she had a class with English teacher Beth Kavan, and wanted to be in another one of her classes. Kavan has been a yearbook adviser for twelve years, and has advised yearbooks for Nebraska City, Wood River, and Northwest.

"I enjoy working on layouts. It is fun to have a blank spread one minute, and then after a few sessions of work, you have made a piece of art," Smallwood said.

The yearbook staff meets during fifth period every day to start new projects and set deadlines for when the projects have to be done.

Another one of the yearbook staffers, senior Monica Lopez, joined the yearbook staff to help herself gain some experience when she goes into

her desired career field. Lopez is also a first year staff member and enjoys learning all she can about how to put the yearbook together.

"I enjoy learning how to create a layout along with the people in my class; they are amazing," Lopez said.

A new addition to this year's yearbook is that they will be putting in videos that students can watch on their phones.

Mitzy Diaz is a junior and is also another first year staffer. She originally joined the class because she wanted to be a part of something important that can contribute to the school. Diaz enjoys being in yearbook because of the freedom it offers in being able to create your own spread.

"This year's edition is different because it has more creativity in it and even something that we haven't done before," Diaz said.

With this year's edition of the yearbook coming closer to completion, all of the staffers are proud of what they have contributed to it. Many may not know how much effort goes into creating something that has countless amounts of memories in it for all of the school to see.



Junior Daniel Velasquez works on his spread during his fifth period yearbook class. The yearbook staff spends the whole school year working on their spreads.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BETH KAVAN

Broadcast Journalism creates *Northwest News Now* news program

AUSTIN FRANSISCO
STAFF WRITER

A new journalism class at Northwest began this year with the collaboration of digital media teacher Colleen Childers and journalism adviser Beth Kavan, but many students are still not aware of it or what it creates. The class started the year learning the basics of video storytelling and editing, but moved on to becoming another outlet for Viking Media, which before consisted of the *Viking Saga* newspaper and *Viking* yearbook.

"We had done stuff for the seniors and spotlights for sports. But then what we really wanted to get to was news broadcasts, like what you would see on television at night. We would go more in depth, start making stories, start making transitions, and we would just call it our broadcast. Basically *N3* is what we are doing now, just every day is for the broadcast, and it's all about bringing news to the students," junior Coleman Cooper said.

N3, and its name, was originally conceived by Cooper.

"We sat down and we tried to come up with a name for like two weeks and I said 'why don't we just call it *Northwest News Now* or something like what Hastings College uses which is *Broncos News Now*,'" Cooper said.

These monthly broadcasts allow for students to try new things that they would normally be unable to do. Senior Austin Dammann is one of the anchors for *N3*.

"I like reporting stuff; I like being on camera and ladies love seeing my face," Dammann said.

Reporting and broadcasting the news has been a very rewarding experience according to Cooper.

"It's fun making news that people will watch. There was the Grandpa video we made last semester. It was literally 'alright, we have this story; this is what's going on', and I had a week to put it together; the video turned



Broadcast Journalism students senior Mitchell Evans, senior Katie Archer, junior Katie Smallwood, senior Austin Dammann, and senior Flake Gustafson record footage for a broadcast.

PHOTO BY BETH KAVAN

out really well. It was really fun and I really appreciated it," Cooper said.

N3 has been an enjoyable experience for all of the people involved.

"I do [enjoy the experience]; it's very fun and exciting," Dammann said.

The broadcast journalism class releases a *N3* broadcast once a month and they are viewable on the Viking Media Youtube channel.

"I like being in broadcast journalism because I get to create what I want, and it's all really cool to see it come out as a final product. It's cool just hatching an idea in your brain and then seeing it on your computer screen," Cooper said.



Junior Coleman Cooper, senior Christian Ellsworth, senior Austin Dammann, junior Katie Smallwood, and adviser Colleen Childers view footage for a broadcast.

PHOTO BY BETH KAVAN

New National Honor Society members chosen

JENNIFER CLEMENT
CO-EDITOR
AMANDA DECKER
STAFF WRITER

National Honor Society (NHS) is an organization created to honor students for academic success and community service.

"National Honor Society is an organization of students that have been recognized for being outstanding in the areas of scholarship, character, leadership, and service.

Students may not apply for membership but rather are selected by the faculty," NHS sponsor Kenzie Mollring said.

Starting early in the second semester, students eagerly filled out their NHS

applications, hoping to be the next addition to the group.

"In order to be considered for membership, students must first meet the scholarship requirement which is an 89% cumulative GPA. Faculty members are then asked to recommend on the basis of character, leadership, and service. Additional information is requested from students once they receive staff recommendation," Mollring said.

After the applications are scored, a committee of teachers score them and rank the applicants. Letters are sent out to inform students whether or not they've been chosen for the organization.

"We get letters [in the mail] to let us know whether we get accepted or not. I wouldn't say it's terrifying, but [it is] more suspenseful in a way," senior Shelby Mueller said.

Besides having the high social status in the academic world, these students are put to work. They sign up to do several service projects every year.

"We help coordinate the blood drives in the fall and spring at Northwest. Other service projects may be done throughout the year as well," Mollring said.

New inductees were honored on March 22 in a special ceremony.

NEW NHS INDUCTEES Class of 2017

Madison Bahe	Lucas Kneeland
Whitney Bicknese	Madison Mazour
Lindsay Borer	MacKenzie McNeel
Katelyn England	Sophia Mittelstaedt
Wyatt Eriksen	Reagan Ostdiek
Morgan Garrett	Addison Simmons
Jessica Hoffman	Dalton Wicht

Class of 2018

Megan Bartz	Caleb Jacobsen	Dalton Quandt
Meriah	Anna Korte	Kelsey Ritchie
Bockmann	Brent Lucke	Rebekah Saddler
Grace Butler	Dylan Luther	Halle Samples
Abigail Campbell	Taryn Mayfield	Sydney Simmons
Shelby Davis	Matthew Meyer	Kate Springer
Mackenzie	Deanna	Jadeyn Stutzman
Hageman	Montanez-	Morgan Urbanski
Allie Hartman	Mendoza	Nakia Wilkerson
Taylor Hageman	Caitlyn Parr	Ryan Zimmerman

Northwest teachers live their lives outside of school

MITCHELL EVANS
STAFF WRITER

Teachers are the educators of the youth, and spend a great deal of time involved with their students and their school. One thing that many students do not know about is what teachers do outside of school.

"Contrary to popular belief, teachers don't sleep in pods under their desks," English teacher Beth Kavan often states.

Many teachers like to participate in personal activities when not teaching.

One faculty member who enjoys being active and outside is guidance counselor Lori Merritt, who loves running, biking, and lifting weights.

"Physical activity is my stress relief. I usually exercise before school. It really sets the tone for my whole day. If I sleep in or don't work out for some reason, I tend to be more on edge. I am not my 'best self' when I don't get to exercise," Merritt said.

Merritt loves to run. When she was in high school she joined the cross country team to help her stay in shape. She loves to compete and is very competitive when it comes to exercising. She hopes to continue to exercise and stay fit for as long as she possibly can.

Another teacher who enjoys spending time outside of school would be social studies teacher Mike Shafer. Shafer owns and runs a commercial slot car raceway in town.

"We have organized races every Wednesday evening and Saturday afternoons, we also host

the Nebraska State Championships every year," History teacher Mike Shafer said.

Shafer has been running the slot car raceway for 12 years.

Shafer is also involved in the Patriot Guard and the National Veterans Awareness Ride. The Patriot Guard goes to fallen veterans' funerals to shield the grieving family from the Westboro Baptist Church when they go to the funeral to protest. The National Veterans Awareness Ride is a group of motorcyclists that ride across the U.S. to help keep issues about POW and MIA soldiers alive.

"We want Congress to continue to look for our soldiers and/or their remains so they may be returned to their families. The ride begins in Sacramento, California and ends in Washington D.C. on Memorial Day, culminating in a parade through D.C. that includes nearly 300,000 participants," Shafer said.

Shafer has been a part of PGR [Patriot Guard] and NVAR [National Veterans Awareness Ride] for nearly a decade, and continues as a way to pay his respect for soldiers. Shafer plans on continuing in these activities for as long as he possibly can.

Another popular teacher at Northwest is very active in his local church. Band director Shawn Pfanstiel has been a member of Grace Lutheran Church for eight years. Pfanstiel participates in many different activities.

"I am the cantor of the church; I help with the partible service, the psalm, and the gradual

intro to the daily verse. I am also the assistant organist, and in addition to that, I actually compose the choir music," Pfanstiel said.

Pfanstiel enjoys his church because the church shares in the same beliefs as he does, and it stays true to its beliefs.

Many teachers at Northwest have various activities that they like to participate in outside of school. Some students think that teachers' lives are at school and all about school, but it is quite the opposite. Whether that is exercising, running a slot car track, or even being active in their church, teachers, like students, have their own hobbies and spend their time having fun.



Shafer sits on his motorcycle that he rides as a member of the PGR [Patriot Guard] and NVAR [National Veterans Awareness Ride]

PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE SHAFER



Health science teacher Denise McNeel helps a student in one of her many health classes. Northwest teachers and administration try to offer a variety of classes that will prepare students for different vocational areas.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NORTHWEST YEARBOOK STAFF

Students want more variety of classes offered at Northwest

CELESTE THOMPSON
STAFF WRITER

Northwest offers so many classes that are very beneficial for its students. Yet, there are many subjects and classes in which students want more variety. Many people have the same opinion on certain classes.

Some students enjoy speech enough to request more classes.

"I wish there were more speech variety classes," sophomore Payton Stein said.

Students understand that it's hard to offer more classes due to lack of enough classrooms.

"I want to take another language class other than French, but I don't think the school has any empty classrooms for things like that," sophomore Kendra Peyton said.

Next year, new classes will be added to the school that will help students not only in school, but help them when they get out of high school. These classes are already getting positive attention.

"Reality 101 seems like a good choice; I liked that," junior Giovanna Lopez said.

Moreover, there are many students who would like to take more challenging classes in different subjects.

"I would like the option of more Advanced Placement classes for students who want to actually challenge them-

selves," junior Lauren Knox said.

Furthering education in one subject is in some students' interests.

"I wish they offered another psychology class. They should have a more in-depth class because those things are so interesting," Knox said.

Students want to broaden their knowledge of new hobbies they could try.

"Knitting classes would be fun.

Classes like Home Economics, not just culinary classes," Lopez said.

Some students want the same classes, but they wish that the classes could be more in-depth at Northwest.

"I feel like they should teach more about actual human development other than just women being pregnant," Lopez said.

Current students also like that Northwest offers a lot of different classes in one similar subject.

"I do want to take business classes, and Northwest does have a lot of options," freshman Sierra Ventura said.

There are a lot of different jobs in the medical field and Northwest offers a variety of different classes, but it doesn't seem to be enough.

"I want more variety of health science classes that follow certain occupations in the medical field, but I know that it's really hard to offer more than they already do," sophomore Megan Gydesen said.

Seven-point grading scale holds students accountable

ALEX STOCKER
CO-EDITOR

Students attending a Northwest Public School know about the seven-point grading scale and how it differs from other area schools. Students who opted into the Northwest District may not like the seven point grading scale.

"I prefer the ten point scale, just because it's a lot easier," junior Carissa Jonak said.

The seven-point grading scale was in place before Northwest Superintendent Matthew Fisher came to Northwest, so he was unsure of when it began.

However, a current teacher is aware that Northwest has used the seven-point grading scale ever since its beginning.

"I graduated from Northwest in 1971 and we have had this grading scale since I came here as a freshman in 1967," Northwest graduate and social studies teacher Mike Shafer said.

Some find transitioning from a ten-point grading scale

to Northwest's seven point scale difficult.

"I came from Barr Middle School, and I find it was kind of hard to adjust to the seven-point grading scale that Northwest has," freshman Isaac Friesen said.

Northwest staff members try to warn incoming students about how difficult it might be to adjust to Northwest's grading scale.

"We try to warn new students and eighth graders that our grading scale is different so they know what to expect. Inevitably I have that conversation with a student, newly arrived, who says 'but that would be passing at my old school' or 'It would be an A at my old school,'" guidance counselor Lori Merritt said.

Northwest administration and teachers feel that the grade scale will benefit students.

"Northwest holds its students to high standards which is good because I think it helps prepare them for college," Fisher said.

Little-known music ensembles exist at Northwest

REILEY HILLMAN
STAFF WRITER

At Northwest there are some music programs that aren't really well known. Everyone knows about the musical, show choir, and marching band, but some groups that many don't know much about, if anything, are orchestra and wind ensemble.

Orchestra is a group led by Kelly Coslet, the orchestra instructor at Grand Island Senior High. They meet almost every Monday and Friday playing and learning songs Coslet has picked out for them. Some pieces include Mozart's "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik" and "Saraband."

They consist of six violins, a viola, and three cellos. The program has grown over the years. Although they don't compete anywhere, they do showcase themselves at the spring band concert.

The other mysterious organization is wind ensemble, being just over a year old. It started just around end of January last school year. The group of 29 is mostly seniors, several juniors, a couple of sophomores, and two freshmen.

"We play music from concert band repertoire, so for the NSBA Concert Band Festival we just played 'Shepherd's Hey' by Percy Grainger, which is a piece that's been in the concert band repertoire for not quite a hundred years, and 'Lux Aurumque' by Eric Whitacre which is a fairly new piece, but is pretty accepted in concert band repertoire," band director Shawn Pfanstiel said.

A lot of the students in wind ensemble find that they like some songs more than others, whether it be because of difficulty or just the way it sounds.

"Personally, my favorite piece that the wind ensemble has performed this year is 'Riverdance,' as it is very fast paced and difficult, making it fun and rewarding when the team pulls it off," senior Jayden Falldorf said.

Falldorf has been in wind ensemble for two years, and he, along with his other fellow students enjoy the time they spend with this group.

"My favorite song this year would probably be Shepherd's Hey because it's all over the place and fun to listen to and play," sophomore Chris Pennell said.

Last year, the band performed for band concerts, as well as the district music contest. This year, they are planning on the same performances, as well as a trip to the NSBA Concert Band Festival [which was not for any rating or anything, just for judges comments], a statewide school administrators meeting, and the district music contest in April that's hosted by Grand Island Senior High this year.

While wind ensemble goes to many festivals and performances, there were a few that stuck with returning members.

"My favorite festival was district music contest last year, as it was the wind ensemble's first year in action and everybody felt that our

hard work truly paid off as we were rewarded a superior rating," Falldorf said.

"Last year I remember going to district music contest which was my favorite," Pennell said.

What makes this organization so unique is there only one person per part, which gives the opportunity to play difficult music.

"There's really nothing extra, no fluff, so everybody has to hold their own weight. Meaning, if someone doesn't play that part then we don't hear it. That's kind of the cool aspect of wind ensemble that we don't get with concert band. You can hide in concert band. In wind ensemble, you can't hide," Pfanstiel said.

Wind ensemble is an auditioned group that is open to anyone in the school grades 9-12, by a competitive audition.

"Wind ensemble is open to any member of the Northwest Band through an audition held as an optional part of the fall playing test. If you can make sound out of a horn or a drum, you can audition for wind ensemble!" Falldorf said.

Wind ensemble is open to anyone in band, and the members have a lot great memories from playing in this ensemble. One student has some words about the benefits of the group.

"[Wind Ensemble] is a VERY fun experience, where you get to make greater bonds with your fellow band members, dramatically increase your playing ability, and of course, feel VERY proud of what you've accomplished at the end of every performance!" Falldorf said.



Northwest music leave

Shrek ends successful run after months of work

JENNIFER CLEMENT
CO-EDITOR

With its fart jokes and crude humor, Northwest's production of *Shrek The Musical* was deemed an overall success.

"I like the musical a lot. When it was first announced, all I knew about *Shrek* was what I had seen in the Dreamworks movie; I had never seen the musical. Once I watched the musical and listened to the music it started to sound like a lot of fun and I got hooked," senior Isaiah Daws [Shrek] said.

The cast put on six shows in the five days it was open. The Wednesday show, the show's opening night, was performed free for the Northwest students and staff.

"I think [that the musical] was really good. It was a lot better than I thought it was going to be. I did not think it was going to be good based on what I heard [from other students]. My favorite part of the musical

was the part where Shrek and Fiona had the fart competition. I thought it was funny," sophomore Livia Connelly said.

The preparations started in November with auditions. After the cast list was posted, line rehearsals took place. Lines and music were memorized and placed on the stage, costumes arrived, and the next thing they knew, it was opening night.

"It felt like the season went by faster this year than it did last year, mostly because I had a bigger role last year and was rehearsing here at the school more often," senior Bre Dobesh [Princess Fiona] said.

With the musical finished, students reflected on the season with each other. After their final show, the seniors sat down with the freshman to have the "Senior/Freshmen Talk."

The "Senior/Freshmen Talk" is when the seniors give the freshman choir students

advice. This has always been an emotional event for everyone involved, and it leaves a major impact.

"I felt that the seniors had some very good advice to the freshmen. It was very heartfelt and [you could tell that they] really cared about the freshmen. I felt that they really made a connection. You could tell they wanted to fix what they have not done, and they are trying to make sure we don't make the same mistakes they did. They want to make sure we have the perfect high school experience," freshman Katlyn Douglass said.

This year's musical really left an impact on its students. Students learned to let their "Freak Flag Fly" and to embrace the fact that this life that they are living "is their story."

"I felt that the musical went really good. It was a big change from middle school choir to now. It was so much fun, and I am going to do it until my senior year," Douglass said.

Musical Leads

Isalah Daws

Shrek

Bre Dobesh

Princess Fiona

Erik Cirila

Donkey

Stetson Guyette

Lord Farquaad

Allie Carlini

Dragon

Addie Dupler

Pinocchio

Jennifer Clement

Gingy

Jadeyn Stutzman

Humpty Dumpty

Jayden Falldorf

Big Bad Wolf

Morgan Garrett

Wicked Witch

Bryce Williams

Little Pig #1

Taylor Gannon

Head Stage Manager

Spencer Ritchie

Student Director

David Shack

Director

s its mark on students

NFL retirements will change the league for years to come



BRENDEN HOLLING
STAFF WRITER

This offseason, many big time players and future Hall of Famers have retired from the NFL. These retirements make for the most anticipated Pro Football Hall of Fame class in recent memory. These players include guaranteed Hall of Famers like Peyton Manning and Charles Woodson and long-time team heroes like Heath Miller and Jared Allen. These players need to be remembered as some of the greats of the game.

The most notable retirement this offseason had to be "The Sheriff," Peyton Manning. The 18-year veteran, who played for the Indianapolis Colts and the Denver Broncos, finished his career as probably the best regular season quarterback ever. Manning holds NFL records for most passing yards (71,940), most passing touchdowns (539) and most league MVP awards (five) just to name a few. He was one of the most respected players on and off the field. He helped the city of Indianapolis by building a children's hospital in his name and has appeared many times in comedy skits. He was the overall role model, by letting both his game and his off the field actions do the talking.

Charles Woodson is one of the most underrated players of all time. Most football fans don't know he beat out Peyton Manning in the Heisman trophy race in 1997. He is also tied for fifth in interceptions

with 65. Woodson played for the Oakland Raiders and the Green Bay Packers. He was a Super Bowl winner, nine-time Pro Bowler, and a Defensive Player of the Year award winner in 2009. He also was a great model off the field by notably donating large amounts of money to local hospitals for pediatric and breast cancer research.

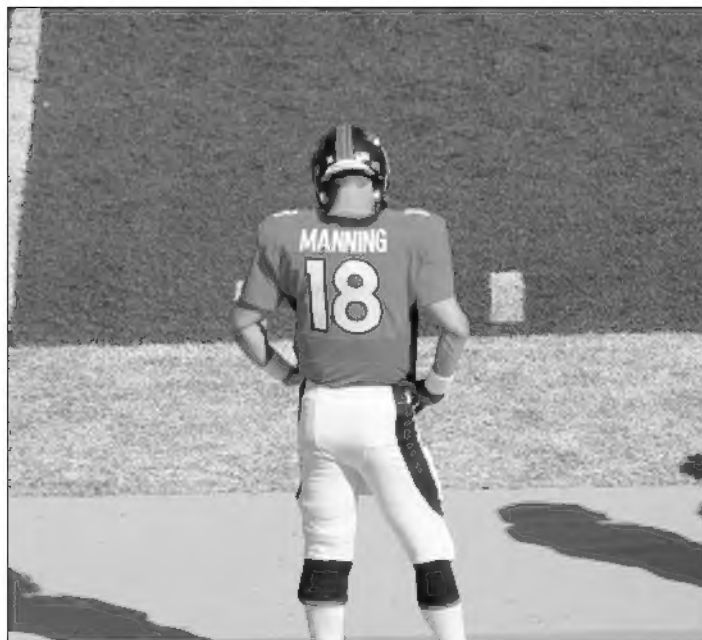
There were a couple of shocking retirements of the group. The first major retirement was Seattle Seahawks running back Marshawn Lynch, who

retired at only 29 years old. He tweeted out a picture of cleats hanging over a wire captioned with a peace sign emoji during the Super Bowl. Lynch is arguably one of the most controversial athletes of his time. He spoke very little to the media and was fined many times for that. Lynch also had some obscene gestures on the field after his touchdown runs. With all that behind him, Lynch's stats are very comparable to Hall of Fame running back Earl Campbell.

The other surprising retirement came from Detroit Lions wide receiver Calvin Johnson. Also known as "Megatron." Because of his large frame, Johnson became a new breed of wide receiver in the NFL. At 6'5" and 236 pounds, Johnson dominated defenses by basically jumping higher than his opponents. His retirement came out of nowhere because his play wasn't declining, and he was only 30 years old.

There was a slew of unsung heroes that had retired. Heath Miller, was the tight end for the Pittsburgh Steelers, a huge fan favorite, and a reliable target for Ben Roethlisberger throughout the years. Jared Allen, was one of the best pass rushers in the last decade. Allen had 136 sacks in his 13-year career. Allen was probably best remembered for his mullet and his "lasso sack" celebration. Justin Tuck was also a great pass rusher for the New York Giants and his major accomplishment was being a giant part of the Giants' two Super Bowl runs.

In 2021 when these players are eligible for the Hall of Fame, it's fitting that these players will go in together. They shaped this generation's style of play and paved the way for the future stars of the league to come.



"It's a lonely job sometimes ..." Peyton started his career with the Colts and retired from the Broncos after winning Super Bowls for both teams.

PHOTO BY JEFFREY BEALL (FLICKR) USED WITH PERMISSION

Girls tennis serves up its inaugural season for Northwest

BRENDEN HOLLING
STAFF WRITER

A new spring sport is being offered this year at Northwest. Girls will now have the opportunity to play tennis. Girls tennis, just like boys tennis, is a co-op sport with Grand Island Central Catholic and is coached by Coach James Lowery. There are five girls participating this year. The girls include junior Reagan Ostdiek and sophomore Shayla Kleffner, with freshmen Jacque Johnson, Ashlyn Sutherland and Kinzie Romans.

Most of the girls from Northwest have little to no experience playing tennis. Some joined to enjoy the opportunity to try a new sport.

"I joined tennis because I wanted to play a spring sport, and this is the first time I have gotten the opportunity to play tennis. I haven't

played tennis on a team before, but I took tennis lessons this winter," Ostdiek said.

Some joined for the experience in high school.

"I joined tennis because high school is about trying new things and seeing if you like them. I have never done tennis before, and I thought it would be a fun new experience. I ended up really enjoying it," Sutherland said.

Some also joined for the reason to stay in shape along with the new opportunity to play tennis.

"I joined just to try something new and stay in shape," Romans said.

Despite the girls having little tennis experience, Coach Lowery sees something in all the girls who joined.

"I am excited to see the girls improve this

year. I see potential in all of them," Lowery said.

As for where the girls will play, most of the girls from Northwest will see junior varsity action during their season. Since they have little experience and great potential, they haven't put all the girls in a particular role as a part of the team.

"I don't really have a specific role on the tennis team since I am new and I haven't played that much before," Ostdiek said.

The team as a whole is ready for the season and has prepared for the journey ahead of them.

"I see our team having a chance to compete with any Class B team in the state. Hopefully we will be making some noise at State," Lowery said.

Vietiane is a pleasant downtown surprise

CELESTE THOMPSON
STAFF WRITER

Downtown Grand Island has so many places that I have never been to before. Places like the Vientiane Restaurant, which is located on W 4th Street. It's family owned and has been up and running for six years. I found out that the family that owns the restaurant also owns a market that is down the street from the restaurant.

Right when I walked in the door, the first thing I noticed was the decor. It looked different than a lot of Asian restaurants I've been to. They had one whole wall with tiny figurines and ceramic bowls with designs. It was interesting to look at all of them. They also had one of those fabulous folding screens on one side of the room. I have no idea why, but I liked it. On the walls they had those silk fans that spread out with flower designs on them.

They had about fifteen tables and the waiters and waitresses seat you when you walk



The Vientiane Restaurant is located on West 4th Street in downtown Grand Island

PHOTO BY CELESTE THOMPSON

in the door. When my family and I got inside, there were only three tables with people seated at them. We were seated at a table in the corner and the waitress asked us for our drink choice and gave us menus.

I chose to have the orange chicken and fried rice. I also ordered a pork egg roll. The wait for the food was fairly good. We had to wait 15-20 minutes, but it was well worth it. The food was delicious and cooked just right. The fried rice was my favorite because the vegetables were really good. My second favorite food item was the pork egg rolls with soy sauce.

I highly recommend you to go and eat at Vientiane Restaurant if you like Thai food. They have great prices for good quality food.

I will definitely be going there in the future and I will try many different things on the menu. I have a feeling everything would be delicious. If you do decide to go there and try it for yourself, I can say confidently that you will not be disappointed.

NESA READING TEST DATES & SCHEDULE CHANGES

March 29th-Extended 1st period (1st and Intervention)

March 31st-Extended 2nd period (Intervention and 2nd)

April 4th-2nd and 3rd periods Flipped (3rd period extended)



Congratulations to the FFA members who qualified for State!

Agriscience Team

Collin Lilienthal
Top Individual Score
Wyatt Whitt
Cole Sundberg
Nursery and Landscape Team
Macey Kroeger
Emily Kruse
Sara Kruse
Cianna Piercy

Agronomy Team

Taylor Hovie
Kaylyn Morse
Jay Laub
Garrett Byerly
Proficiency Awards
Macey Kroeger
Morgan Haverluck
Garrett Byerly

State Star in Production Finalist
Alex Stocker

Letter to the underclassmen

AUSTIN FRANSISCO
STAFF WRITER



Dear Students,
High school
is probably the
strangest time in

our lives. We go from young teenagers who can't even drive yet, all the way to practically being an adult, with all the responsibilities that come with that, within the span of four years. Practically nowhere else in our lives do we experience that much change, that fast.

In that four years, we have to figure out who we are, where we want to be, and what we're going to do with our lives. All while balancing homework, jobs, and social lives.

There is a lot that's expected of a high school student. Some people may put off these things, but eventually we all have to deal with the responsibilities presented to us. The decisions we make in high school can define who we are for the rest of our lives.

My advice for the underclassmen would be to not underestimate the time that you have. You only have four years before you have to accept that you're an adult.

Enjoy high school because you're only going to keep getting more responsibility as life goes on. As much as high school can really suck at times, at least you don't have to pay rent.

Another piece of advice I would like to give is for the freshmen. Don't get used to those "rewards" for completing your homework. Eventually you are going to have to realize that you will have to do what's expected of you, and that you won't be rewarded for it. You aren't going to get a free Panda Express card when you go pay your taxes.

Lastly, I would like to give some advice to the juniors. Don't screw around in your senior year. Senior year is where you are going to have to make tough decisions like where you want to go after high school or what degree you want to get. Getting stuff done during your senior year will help you in the long run. Trust me, don't wait until the last moment to do things. Get it done now.

High school is definitely a strange time in our lives. While in high school, we set the building blocks of who we are going to become, so whatever you do, don't screw it up.

A little advice for the seniors

REILEY HILLMAN
STAFF WRITER



Dear Seniors,

I just want to say a few things before I never see any of you ever

again. The first thing is high school is overrated, but don't take it for granted. It's only four years of your life. If you live to be 100, that's 1/25 or for all you decimal people 4% of your life. It's okay if you made some mistakes along the way as long as you learn from them.

The next thing is start teaching yourself good habits now. I know a lot of you think that you can live off of three hours of sleep, but trust me: it will come back to haunt you. Some need to study more than others. If that's you, start now. Then, when college hits, it's not going to hit you like a brick wall.

Ask teachers for help now so it won't be so difficult when you get to college and your professor asks you to write a five page paper over quantum physics and you can't remember if the letter M comes before or after the letter O, (hint: it's before).

Another thing to keep in mind is don't be stupid. I know some of us were just born with less brain cells than others, but don't ruin your life because of what you and your "friends" thought was cool.

I'm not saying you can't have a little fun, though, as long as you are in control of the situation and know no one will get hurt either in the moment, later on in life, temporarily, or permanently.

Don't have any regrets. Live your high school career knowing you did everything you wanted to. Don't look back wishing you would have done something. Say to yourself, "I'm glad I did," instead of "I wish I would have." If you always focus on the past, you don't have time to look at the present or future.

If you plan on going to college, you need to start saving money now. With colleges being so expensive, the average student loan debt in Nebraska is \$26,278. If your parents can pay for you, great, but for others, scholarships is where it's at. There are tons and tons to fill out. Some may take you a day, and some may just need your name and a brief paragraph about you.

No scholarship is too small. Look at it like this: let's say you work for minimum wage of \$9.00. If you get \$100 for a few hours of just typing, that is the equivalent of working a little more than 10 hours at your work. Even if you're not going to college,

money is great for when you get hungry and don't want to OD on Ramen Noodles or Mac and Cheese.

You don't have to have the fanciest clothes, or the sportiest car, as long as you are comfortable in what you wear and like your

style. Don't try to be someone you're not. The only competition you're up against is yourself.

The friends you have now may not stick with you through college. Some friends move away, and sadly some pass away. It's important to stay in contact with those friends that you felt a connection with because you never know when they are going to be gone.

On that note, respect others. Stay humble. You're 17-18 years old. We have no idea what it's like besides what we know right now, and acting like you know everything and own everything isn't going to get you very far.

Once again, high school is a bit overrated, but don't take it for granted. It's only 4% of your life. It's okay if you made some mistakes along the way as long as you learn from them. Start teaching yourself good habits now.

If you always focus on the past, you don't have time to look at the present or future. Ask for help. Don't regret anything. Start saving money now. Don't try to be someone you're not. The friends you have now may not stick with you through college. Respect others and stay humble.

High school is
a bit overrated,
but don't take it
for granted.

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Senior Spotlight

BRENDEN HOLLING
STAFF WRITER

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

VIKING SAGA

PAGE 11

Aleesa Korell

Age: 18

Middle School: Westridge

Activities: Youth Group, Soccer, One Act

Plans After High School: Attending Evangel University, majoring in elementary education.

Advice: Following the crowd is the worst thing you can do in high school.

Interesting fact: I always leave room for Jesus.

Taylor Kool

Age: 17

Middle School: Westridge

Activities: Band, Speech, Cross Country, Track, National Honor Society

Plans After High School: Attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln majoring in biological systems engineering.

Advice: Do what makes you happy.

Interesting fact: I love dolphins.

Dylan Davis

Age: 18

Middle School: Westridge

Activities: Football, Track, Hunting, Fishing

Plans After High School: Go to Northeast Community College and go into the utility line program.

Advice: Get involved in sports.

Interesting fact: I have played football for as long as possible.



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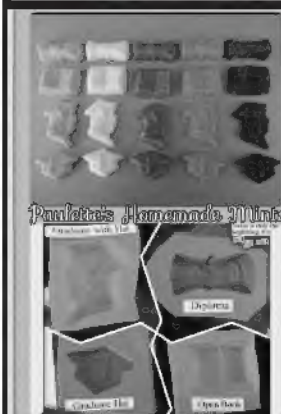
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